



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/036,959	01/02/2002	David L. Hallahan	CL1792 US NA	4565

23906 7590 02/11/2004

E I DU PONT DE NEMOURS AND COMPANY
LEGAL PATENT RECORDS CENTER
BARLEY MILL PLAZA 25/1128
4417 LANCASTER PIKE
WILMINGTON, DE. 19805

EXAMINER

KERR, KATHLEEN M

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1652

DATE MAILED: 02/11/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/036,959	HALLAHAN ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Kathleen M Kerr	1652	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 November 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 29-40 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 29-31 and 34-40 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 32 and 33 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>1/2/02, 2/12/02</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Application Status

1. In response to the previous Office action, a written restriction requirement (mailed October 3, 2003), Applicants filed a response and amendment received on November 5, 2003. Said amendment amended the specification, cancelled Claims 1-28 and added new Claims 29-40. Thus, Claims 29-40 are pending in the instant Office action and will be examined herein.

Election

2. Applicant's election without traverse of Group I in received on November 5, 2003 is acknowledged. All newly pending claims are drawn to the elected subject matter and will be examined herein.

Priority

3. The instant application is granted the benefit of priority for the U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/307,673 filed on July 25, 2001 as requested in the first lines of the specification and the application data sheet.

Information Disclosure Statement

4. The information disclosure statement filed on January 2, 2002 has been reviewed, and its references have been considered as shown by the Examiner's initials next to each citation on the attached copy. The Examiner corrected a typographical error; no action is required by Applicants. The information disclosure statement filed on February 12, 2002 has been reviewed, and its references have been considered as shown by the Examiner's initials next to each citation on the attached copy.

Objections to the Specification

5. The specification is objected to because the title is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the elected claims are drawn (see M.P.E.P. § 606.01). The Examiner suggests the following new title:

---Polynucleotides encoding an Acetyl-CoA Acetyltransferase from *Hevea brasiliensis*---

Related Products and Methods---

6. In the specification, the Abstract is objected to for not completely describing the disclosed subject matter (see M.P.E.P. § 608.01(b)). It is noted that in many databases and in foreign countries, the Abstract is crucial in defining the disclosed subject matter, thus, its completeness is essential. The Examiner suggests the inclusion of all the full names of the enzymes disclosed in the specification from *Hevea brasiliensis* (see Table 2 on page 37) for completeness.

Claim Objections

7. Claims 32-33 are objected for depending from rejected claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

8. Claims 35 and 39-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, written description, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a

Art Unit: 1652

way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventors, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The instant claims are drawn to DNA constructs containing a regulatory sequence linked to the gene disclosed. Although a genus of regulatory sequences is known in the art, no description of a homologous regulatory sequence, that which is naturally linked to promote the expression of the gene, was in the possession of the inventors at the time of filing. To satisfy the written description aspect of 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, for a claimed genus of molecules, it must be clear that: (1) the identifying characteristics of the claimed molecules have been disclosed, e.g., structure, physical and/or chemical characteristics, functional characteristics when coupled with a known or disclosed correlation between function and structure, or a combination of these; and (2) a representative number of species within the genus must be disclosed. The specification does not disclose a representative species of a homologous regulatory, with or without identifying characteristics. Therefore, Claims 35 and 39-40, as written, fails to satisfy the written description requirement. The Examiner suggests the insertion of the term "heterologous" into Claim 35 to obviate the instant rejection.

9. Claims 29-31 and 34-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, scope of enablement, because the specification, while being enabling for polynucleotides encoding SEQ ID NO:8 having acetyl-CoA acetyltransferase activity, does not reasonably provide enablement for polynucleotides encoding polypeptides of varied sequence having this activity. The specification does not enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make the invention commensurate in scope with these claims. To

Art Unit: 1652

make the claimed invention to the extent defined in the claims would require undue experimentation.

The factors to be considered in determining whether undue experimentation is required are summarized in *re Wands* 858 F.2d 731, 8 USPQ2d 1400 (Fed. Cir, 1988). The Court in *Wands* states: "Enablement is not precluded by the necessity for some experimentation such as routine screening. However, experimentation needed to practice the invention must not be undue experimentation. The key word is 'undue,' not 'experimentation.'" (*Wands*, 8 USPQ2d 1404). Clearly, enablement of a claimed invention cannot be predicated on the basis of quantity of experimentation required to make or use the invention. "Whether undue experimentation is needed is not a single, simple factual determination, but rather is a conclusion reached by weighing many factual considerations." (*Wands*, 8 USPQ2d 1404). The factors to be considered in determining whether undue experimentation is required include: (1) the quantity of experimentation necessary, (2) the amount or direction or guidance presented, (3) the presence or absence of working examples, (4) the nature of the invention, (5) the state of the prior art, (6) the relative skill of those in the art, (7) the predictability or unpredictability of the art, and (8) the breadth of the claims. While all of these factors are considered, a sufficient amount for a *prima facie* case is discussed below.

The instant specification teaches SEQ ID NO:8, an acetyl-CoA acetyltransferase from *Hevea brasiliensis*, and SEQ ID NO:1, an *H. brasiliensis* gene exactly encoding SEQ ID NO:8. The art also includes examples of acetyl-CoA acetyltransferase encoding genes. The art fully enables any DNA encoding SEQ ID NO:8 based on the degeneracy of the genetic code. While the instant specification describes and enables means for identifying other acetyl-CoA

Art Unit: 1652

acetyltransferase genes using hybridization methods, etc., these methods do not enable one of skill in the art to make all, or a relevant portion of, the polynucleotides within the scope of the claims because the ability to find a acetyl-CoA acetyltransferase gene, which is structurally related to SEQ ID NO:1, is not equivalent to the ability to make a acetyl-CoA acetyltransferase gene as required by the statute (i.e., "make and use"). No description in the specification or the art provides particular residues whose encoding is important within the disclosed sequence so that its acetyl-CoA acetyltransferase-nature is maintained. Thus, one of skill in the art would be unable to predict the structure of the other members of the genus in order to make such members. Therefore, the instant claims are not enabled to the full extent of their scope.

Closest Prior Art

10. In EP 1033405 (see IDS) an *Arabidopsis thaliana* DNA fragment is taught that is 83% identical to a polynucleotide encoding SEQ ID NO:8. This does not meet the broadest limitations in the claims of 85% identical. Thus, the claimed subject matter is considered free of the prior art.

Conclusion

11. Claims 29-31 and 34-40 are rejected; Claims 32-33 are objected to. Thus, Claims 29-40 are not allowed for the reasons identified in the numbered sections of this Office action. Applicants must respond to the objections/rejections in each of the numbered sections in this Office action to be fully responsive in prosecution.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kathleen M Kerr whose telephone number is (571) 272-0931. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, from 9:00am to 6pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ponnathupura Achutamurthy can be reached on (571) 272-0928. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Kathleen M Kerr
Examiner
Art Unit 1652

February 6, 2004